

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments with a coating, characterized in that the coating envelops the metallic pigments and comprises at least one of an oligomeric and a ~~and/or~~ polymeric binding agent, which binding agent is at least one of chemically cross-linkable and ~~and/or~~ cross-linkable under the action of means selected from the group consisting of heat, infrared radiation, ultraviolet radiation and ~~and/or~~ electron radiation, which coated metallic pigments are present in the form of a powder which has a particle size d50 of less than 190 μm and are resistant to corrosion following curing in a powder-based varnish.
2. (Original) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the particle size d50 of the coated metallic pigments ranges from 5 μm to 100 μm .
3. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the previous claims~~, characterized in that said metallic pigments contain from 20 to 85 % by weight of at least one of an oligomeric and ~~a~~ ~~and/or~~ polymeric binding agent, based on the total weight of the coated metallic pigments.
4. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the previous claims~~, characterized in that the coating contains, in addition to said binding agent, at least one of further additives and ~~and/or~~ auxiliaries.

5. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 4, characterized in that the at least one of additives and and/or auxiliaries ~~comprise~~ comprises at least one of organic and and/or inorganic colored pigments and and/or dyes.

6. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 4, characterized in that the at least one of additives and and/or auxiliaries ~~comprise~~ comprises at least one of curing agents, photoinitiators and and/or polymerization initiators.

7. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 4, characterized in that the at least one of additives and and/or auxiliaries are ~~comprise further~~ varnish components, selected from the group consisting of preferably fillers, degassing agents, film-forming auxiliaries, flameproofing agents, adhesion promoters, light-stabilizing agents, flatting agents, polymerization initiators, radical interceptors, anticaking agents, slip agents, radiation-hardening reactive diluents, ultraviolet absorbers, flow-control agents, cross-linking catalysts, and and/or waxes.

8. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the previous claims~~, characterized in that the metallic pigments are primed, prior to application of said coating, with binding agent, or with an additional, ~~preferably cross-linked~~ layer or with a plurality of additional[[,]] ~~preferably cross-linked~~ layers.

9. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 8, characterized in that the metallic pigments are primed with at least one of silicon dioxide, metal oxide, organophosphoric compounds, ~~preferably phosphates and/or phosphonic acid compounds, and/or~~ and polymers.

10. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 8, characterized in that the metallic pigments are primed with adhesion promoters for the binding agent coating; ~~preferably functionalized silanes, functionalized polymers and/or organophosphorus compounds, preferably phosphate esters and/or phosphonic acid compounds.~~

11. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the previous claims,~~ characterized in that the binding agent(s) is/are selected from the group consisting of polyester resins, epoxide resins, polyurethane resins, UV-curing systems, acrylates, and mixtures thereof.

12. (Original) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 11, characterized in that the polyester resins are selected from the group consisting of saturated polyester resins containing OH groups and having a hydroxyl number between 30-150 mg of KOH/g, saturated carboxyl group-containing polyester resins having an acid value between 25 - 70 mg of KOH/g, and mixtures thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 11, characterized in that

the epoxide resins are selected from the group of those having ~~consisting of~~ more than one epoxide ring ~~and preferably having an epoxy equivalent weight (EEW) of from 400 to 2500.~~

14. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 11,

characterized in that

the polyurethane resins are selected from the group consisting of OH-functional polyester resins, ~~[[or]]~~ polyacrylate resins with at least one of blocked and ~~and/or~~ unblocked polyisocyanates, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 11,

characterized in that

the UV-curing systems are compounds having at least one of mono-unsaturated and ~~and/or~~ polyunsaturated double bonds.

16. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 to 15,~~

characterized in that

the curing agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyalkylamine-containing compounds, glycidyl group-containing compounds, epoxy group-containing compounds, triglycidyl isocyanurates, and mixtures thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the previous claims,~~

characterized in that

cross-linking of the binding agent(s) and of any curing agent present is thermally inducible.

18. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the previous claims,~~

characterized in that

the coating containing binding agent contains corrosion inhibitors.

19. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 18,

characterized in that

the corrosion inhibitors are at least one of anodic and ~~and/or~~ cathodic corrosion inhibitors.

20. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 18 ~~or claim 19~~,

characterized in that

the corrosion inhibitors are corrosion-stabilizing pigments, ~~preferably~~ selected from the group consisting of strontium zinc phosphosilicate, zinc aluminum polyphosphate hydrate, zinc calcium aluminum strontium phosphatesilicate hydrate, zinc calcium strontium orthophosphatesilicate hydrate, strontium aluminum polyphosphate hydrate, calcium aluminum polyphosphatesilicate hydrate, and sodium molybdate, sodium phosphomolybdate, and/or calcium molybdate, calcium phosphomolybdate, and/or zinc molybdate, and/or zinc phosphomolybdate, and/or zinc phosphate complex, and mixtures thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 18 ~~any one of claims 18 to 20~~,

characterized in that

the corrosion-stabilizing pigments have a mean particle size ranging from 0.1 to 10 μm ~~and preferably from 0.15 to 5 μm .~~

22. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 21~~,

characterized in that

the metallic pigments are selected from the group consisting of aluminum, copper, iron, titanium, nickel, zinc, and brass pigments, and mixtures thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 22,~~
characterized in that
the metallic pigments are oxidized metallic pigments ~~and preferably oxidized copper and/or brass pigments.~~

24. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 22,~~
characterized in that
the metallic pigments are chemically wet-process oxidized aluminum pigments.

25. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of the previous claims,~~
characterized in that
the metallic pigments are metal-containing interference pigments having at least one of a metal core and ~~and/or~~ a metal coating.

26. (Currently Amended) Metallic pigments as defined in clam 1 ~~any one of the previous claims,~~
characterized in that
the powder exists as a paste in conjunction with a liquid phase~~[[,]]~~ ~~preferably an organic solvent.~~

27. (Currently Amended) A masterbatch for powder-based varnishes,
characterized in that
the masterbatch contains metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 25.~~

28. (Currently Amended) A coating composition, characterized in that the coating composition contains metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~, which metallic pigments are resistant to corrosion following curing of the coating composition.

29. (Original) A coating composition as defined in claim 28, characterized in that the coating composition contains a powder-based varnish.

30. (Currently Amended) A coating composition as defined in claim 28 ~~or claim 29~~, characterized in that the coating composition has a metal content of from 0.5 % to 15 % by weight ~~and preferably from 1 % to 12 % by weight~~, based on the total weight of the coating composition.

31. (Original) A coating composition as defined in claim 30, characterized in that the coating composition has a metal content of from 2 % to 8 % by weight.

32. (Currently Amended) A coating composition as defined in claim 29 ~~any one of claims 29 to 31~~, characterized in that the powder-based varnish and the coating of the metallic pigments contain the same binding agent.

33. (Currently Amended) A coated object,
characterized in that
the object is coated with metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26 or with
a coating composition as defined in any one of claims 28 to 32.~~

34. (Currently Amended) A coated object as defined in claim 33,
characterized in that
the object is a facade element, ~~preferably a facade tile,~~ a window frame, a vehicle body,
~~preferably a body of a motor vehicle,~~ or a frame of a vehicle, ~~preferably a bicycle or motorcycle.~~

35. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of a metallic pigment as defined in
claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26,~~ comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing a solution or dispersion of at least one of an oligomeric and a ~~and/or~~
polymeric binding agent in an organic solvent,
- b) coating the metallic pigment with said binding agent either by
 - i) dispersing the metallic pigment in the solution or dispersion produced in
step a) followed by atomization thereof, or
 - ii) atomizing the solution or dispersion produced in step a) onto metallic
pigments fluidized in a gas stream, and
- c) drying the metallic pigments coated with binding agent in a turbulent gas stream.

36. (Original) A process for the production of a metallic pigment as defined in claim 35,
characterized in that the metallic pigments coated with binding agent are, following step c),
additionally subjected to size classification.

37. (Currently Amended) A process as defined in claim 35 ~~or claim 36~~, characterized in that at least one of further additives and ~~and/or~~ auxiliaries are added to the at least one of a oligomeric and ~~and/or~~ polymeric binding agent dissolved or dispersed in solvent, ~~preferably prior to contact thereof with the metallic pigments.~~

38. (Currently Amended) The process as defined in claim 37, characterized in that the at least one of additives and ~~and/or~~ auxiliaries are selected from the group consisting of ~~comprise~~ curing agents, photoinitiators and ~~and/or~~ polymerization initiators.

39. (Currently Amended) The process as defined in claim 37, characterized in that the at least one of additives and ~~and/or~~ auxiliaries are selected from the group consisting of ~~comprise~~ corrosion inhibitors and ~~preferably~~ corrosion-stabilizing pigments .

40. (Currently Amended) The process as defined in claim 35 ~~any one of claims 35 to 39~~, characterized in that the solvent used is selected from the group consisting of water, an organic solvent, and ~~and~~ [[or]] a water-containing organic solvent.

41. (Currently Amended) The process as defined in claim 35 ~~any one of claims 35 to 40~~, characterized in that the steps (bi) and (c) are combined in that atomization of the coated metallic pigments and the elimination of the solvent ~~are~~ is carried out by spray drying.

42. (Currently Amended) The process as defined in claim 35 ~~any one of claims 35 to 40~~, characterized in that the steps (bii) and (c) are combined in that the coating and drying of the metallic pigments is carried out in a fluid bed or a fluidized bed in that the at least one of an oligomeric and and/or a polymeric binding agent dissolved or dispersed in the solvent is spray injected and the solvent is removed by turbulent mixing in the fluid bed or the fluidized bed.

43. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a material selected from the group consisting of ~~The use of the metallic pigment as defined in any one of claims 1 to 25 in~~ paints, varnishes, powder-based varnishes, printing inks, plastics materials, and [[or]] nail varnish, comprising adding to said material the metallic pigment as defined in claim 1.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a ~~The use of the metallic pigment as defined in any one of claims 1 to 25 in~~ highly durable powder-based varnish ~~varnishes~~ for coating facades, comprising including in said varnish the metallic pigment as defined in claim 1.

45. (Currently Amended) A nail varnish, characterized in that it contains metallic pigments as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 26~~.

Please add the following new claims:

46. (New) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 8, wherein said at least one additional layer is cross-linked.

47. (New) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 9, wherein said metal oxide organophosphoric compounds are selected from the group consisting of phosphates and phosphoric acid compounds.

48. (New) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 10, wherein the adhesion promoters are selected from the group consisting of functionalized silanes, functionalized polymers and organophosphorous compounds.
49. (New) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 48 wherein said organophosphorous compound is selected from the group consisting of phosphate esters and phosphoric acid compounds.
50. (New) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 13, wherein the epoxide resins have an epoxy equivalent weight (EEW) of from 400 to 2500.
51. (New) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 23, wherein said oxidized metallic pigments are selected from the group consisting of oxidized copper and oxidized brass pigments.
52. (New) Metallic pigments as defined in claim 26, wherein said liquid phase comprises an organic solvent.
53. (New) A coated object, characterized in that, the object is coated with a coating composition as defined in claim 28.
54. (New) A process as defined in claim 37, characterized in that said at least one of further additives and auxiliaries are added prior to contact of said at least one of a oligomeric and polymeric binding agent with the metallic pigments.